HAER
ILL,
81-ROCIL,
3/109-

Rock Island Arsenal
G-I Connection
(Building 109)
Rodman Avenue and Fourth Street
Rock Island
Rock Island County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-20-T

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL
G-I CONNECTION
(Building 109)
HAER No. IL-20T

Location:	Rodman Avenue and Fourth Street, Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois UTM: 15.705080.4598900 Quad: Davenport East
Date of Construction:	1917-1918
Present Owner and Occupant:	U.S. Army
Present Use:	Administrative offices
Significance:	Although Rock Island Arsenal was designated an ordnance manufacturing installation during the Civil War, it was not until World War I that all of the stone Greek Revival shops on Rodman Avenue were fully outfitted with production machinery. To facilitate material handling between the shops, the arsenal command in 1917-1918 authorized the construction of four connecting links that matched the architectural detailing of the older buildings. The G-I Connection joined Shops G and I (see HAER Nos. IL-20I, IL-20J). Part of the Rock Island Arsenal National Register Historic District, the building embodied an equal concern for utilitarian and aesthetic considerations that became increasingly rare during subsequent wartime construction programs.
Historian:	Jeffrey A. Hess, February 1985
Architectural Historian:	David Arbogast, February 1985

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: According to the arsenal's official Completion Report for World-War-I construction, the "G-I Connection [was[] started 9-17-17, completed 6-1-18" (p. 3).

2. Architect: Stone and Webster Company of Boston (Completion Report, p. 3).

3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army.

4. Builder, contractor, supplier: Stone and Webster Company served as general contractor (Completion Report, p. 3). Much of the stone came from demolished portions of Shops G and I (Interview with Bouilly).

5. Original plans and construction: The Rock Island Arsenal Engineering Plans and Services Division has microfiche copies of original elevations prepared by Stone and Webster in 1917. The drawing for the north elevation shows a three-story, seven-bay facade connecting original single bays of the pavillions of Shops G and I. The original construction is documented by a 1944 photograph in the picture collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office, captioned "76-A / Looking south at Shop 'G-I' Annex, Building No. 109 / 21 November 1944" (see HAER Photo No. IL-20T-4). The present configuration of the north facade conforms to the original construction.

The drawing for the south elevation shows a four-story, seven-bay facade connecting original single bays of the pavilions of Shops G and I. The fourth story contains an entablature, with a pair of small windows defining each bay. On the second and third stories, the bays are defined by pilasters, which frame a tall window space extending a full two stories in height. On the ground floor, three regularly spaced, single window openings to the east and west flank a central bay, which is not detailed in the drawing. A 1956 photograph in the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office shows the details articulated in the 1917 elevation (see HAER Photo No. IL-20T-5). It also shows that the tall, two-story window spaces contained industrial steel sash and that the ground-floor central bay was infilled with stonework. This central bay may originally have contained a porch, since there is a personnel door on the second-floor level immediately above it. The south facade's present configuration resembles the 1956 photograph, except that the industrial steel sash has been replaced by concrete block and irregularly spaced, aluminum sash.

6. Alterations and additions: At an undetermined date, a porch was probably removed from the ground-floor central bay of the south elevation.

After World War II, windows on the first and second stories of the north facade were infilled with glass block.

About 1979, the two-story window spaces on the second and third stories of the south facade were infilled with concrete block and irregularly spaced, aluminum sash (Interview with Bouilly).

B. Historical Context:

In 1917, the arsenal command authorized the construction of connecting links between four pairs of nineteenth-century manufacturing shops on Rodman Avenue. Designed and built by Stone and Webster Company of Boston, the four new buildings displayed the same stone, Greek Revival architecture of the older structures (see also HAER Nos. IL-20Q, IL-20R, IL-20S). Completed in 1918, Building G-I joined Shops G and I. Originally used for storage and shop space, the building currently houses administrative offices. It has been designated as "Building 109" at least since World War II (see HAER Photo No. IL-20T-4; for additional documentation, see HAER No. IL-20).

Prepared by: Jeffrey A. Hess
MacDonald and Mack Partnership
February 1985

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is a late Greek Revival style, rectangular, limestone structure with elevations salvaged from the adjacent pavilions of Buildings 108 and 110. As a result, its exterior detailing matches those buildings, although its interior reflects its later construction date. It is two-and-one-half stories tall with a full basement and a gabled roof sheltering an attic. Serving as one of four similar connecting links for the ten stone shops, it effectively recedes into the background of its more illustrious neighbors.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is well-maintained and is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular building measures 90' (9 bays on its north (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-1) and south (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-2) elevations) x 55'. It is two-and-one-half stories tall with a full bssementand attic.

2. Foundations: Poured, reinforced concrete foundations carry a dressed ashlar limestone water table.

3. Walls: The north elevation (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-1) is reinforced concrete with rock-faced ashlar limestone veneer salvaged from the adjoining pavilions of Buildings 108 and 110. The south elevation (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-2) is painted concrete block. Colosaal rock-faced ashlar limestone pilastera (HAER Pboto Nos. IL-20T-1 and IL-20T-2) rising from the water table to the entablature divide both elevations into a regular bay system. The dressed limestone entablature (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20T-1 and IL-20T-2) carries a projecting dressed limestone cornice.

4. Structural systems: The bearing walls are reinforced concrete on the south, concrete block on the north and west, and brick on the east. The basement, first, and second floors contain reinforced concrete piers (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-3) 20' on-center. The attic has steel H-columns. First, second, and attic floor systems are poured, reinforced concrete. The roof system is ateel beams.

5. Porches: A porch is centered in the north elevation (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-1). It is quite simple, being reinforced concrete with plain steel pipe railings painted black.

6. Light wells: Across the north elevation (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-1) there is a narrow window well with rock-faced ashlar limestone walls to grade and a black pipe railing above grade.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways: The principal doorway (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-1) is located at the porch and contains a rock-faced limestone segmental-arched head with a rock-faced keystone, rock-faced limestone jambs, and a poured concrete sill. The doorway opening contains a pair of modern slab doors each with a single glass upper panel. At each end of the north elevation at the basement level window openings (originally in the northb pavilion elevstions of Buildinga 108 and 110) have been converted to contain single, five-panel, wood doors.

   b. Windows: Typical basement, first-, and second-floor north elevation window openings (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-1) are filled

witb glass block above two-light, aluminum hopper sash, and bave rock-faced limestone jambs, cut limestone sills and flat lintels. The basement window lintels are formed by the water table. Tbe first and second floor south elevation window openings (HAER Pboto No. IL-20T-2) contain small, three-ligbt, aluminum, combination sash irregularly located across the elevation. The attic window openings (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20T-1 and IL-20T-2 contain single-light, pivoting, wood sash and bave rock-faced jambs and sills and lintels formed by the entablature and frieze and are arranged in pairs in the building entablature. Tbe south basement window openings (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-2) typically contain six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash matching the original sash of Buildings 108 and 110, and have rock-faced limestone jambs and flat, dressed limestone sills and lintels. All wood sasb are painted white.

8. Roof:

   a. Shape, covering: Tbe roof (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20T-1 and IL20T-2) is a gable form covered with standing seam metal roofing.

   b. Cornice, eaves: The cornice and eaves (HAER Pboto Nos. IL-20T-1 and IL-20T-2) are Classical dressed limestone. The interior metal gutter system is tied to exterior metal leaders wbich lead to an underground drainage system.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Although tbe building has two stories with a basement and an attic, it has no stairs or elevators. Access between floors is provided via adjacent stairs in tbe adjoining pavilions of Buildings 108 and 110.

   a. Basement: Tbe basement is an open-plan storage area.

   b. First floor: Tbe first floor contains a center hallway flanked by rooms.

   c. Second floor: The second floor contains a center hallway flanked by offices.

   d. Attic: The attic is an open-plan storage area.

2. Flooring: Basement flooring (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-3) is poured concrete with a sealer applied to it. Tbe first floor has poured concrete flooring covered with linoleum tile. Tbe second floor has concrete flooring covered witb linoleum tile. Tbe attic has wood flooring to which is being added tarpaper and plywood in a current remodeling effort.

3. Wall and ceiling finishes: Outer basement walls (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-3) are painted rock-faced ashlar limestone on tbe north elevation, painted concrete block on tbe south and west elevations, and painted hrick on the east elevation. The reinforced concrete piers (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-3) are painted. Interior partition walls are wire cage. The ceiling (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-3) is exposed and painted reinforced concrete structural heams and slah.

   Outer first- and second-floor walls are painted rock-faced limestone on thenorth elevation, psinted concrete block on the south and west elevations, and painted brick on the east elevation. The concrete piers are painted. Interior partitions are modern, demountahle partitions. The first-floor ceiling is painted, exposed reinforced concrete structure and the second-floor ceiling is suspended acoustical tile.

   The outer attic walls are painted, rock-faced, ashlar limestone on the north and south elevations and painted brick on the east and west elevations. Tbe steel columns are painted. Gypsum board partitions are heing constructed. The ceiling, at present, is tbe exposed board roof sheathing and rafters and purlins.

4. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: All doorwsys are of relatively recent vintage appropriate to their respective partitions.

   b. Windows: There are no window casings. Window openings (HAER Photo No. IL-20T-3) are formed hy tbe adjacent dasonry.

5. Hardware: No known original hardware, other than window sash cords, pulleys, weigbts, and ornate lifts for the hasement south windows, is known to survive in tbe building.

6. Mechanical equipment:

   a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The huilding is heated by steam radiators from a central hesting plant (Building 227). There is no air conditioning. Ventilation is provided by opening the window sasb.

   h. Lighting: Artificial illumination is by meana of fluorescent electrical fixtures on all floors. No evidence remains of original artificial lighting systems.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Connecting Building 108, a prin-

ting shop, on the west and Building 110, an administration building, on the east, the building is centered between Third Avenue on the west and East Avenue on the east and lies south of Rodman Avenue, the arsenal's principal street. To the south is a paved courtyard, south of which is South Avenue. Attached to the base of the building near the east side of the south elevation is a large, rectangular, concrete base, now heavily deteriorated and missing whatever structure it once supported. The relatively level site slopes gently to the south.

Prepared by: David Arbogast
Architectural Conservator
February 1985

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

Microfiche copies of the following drawings are on file at the Rock Island Arsenal Engineering Plans and Services Division:

Stone and Webster, "Cut Stone Details / Sheet No. 1 / North Elevation Building G-I," September 7, 1917, F65352, microfiche R20000390; shows original construction plan.

Stone and Webster, "Cut Stone Details / Sheet No. 2 / South Elevation Building G-I," September 28, 1917, F50576, microfiche R20000383; shows original construction plan.

B. Early Views:

The picture collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office has a 1944 photograph documenting the original construction of the north facade. It is captioned "76-A / Looking south at Shop 'G-I' Annex, Building No. 109 / 21 November 1944" (see HAER Photo No. IL-20T-4). The same collection also has a 1956 photograph showing details articulated in a 1917 elevation. The photograph is captioned in part, "2010-53209 / Shop G & 1 Annex, Bldg. #109. Court looking north. / April 27, 1956" (see HAER Photo No. IL-20T-5; for additional documentation, see HAER No. IL-20).

C. Interviews:

Robert Bouilly, Senior Historian, Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office, May 30, 1984; noted the reuse of stone from demolished portions of Shops G and I, and provided approximate date for alteration of south facade.

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Hess, Jeffrey A., and Mack, Robert C. "Historic Properties Report Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois". Prepared by MacDonald and Mack Partnership, and Building Technology Incorporated for the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1985. The report, with accompanying inventory cards, is filed as field records in the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, under HAER No. IL-20.

Real Property Cards. Rock Island Arsenal Engineering Plans and Services Division. Briefly describes building's structural characteristics and maintenance history.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Completion Report Covering All Construction Projects Accomplished Under Supervision of the Construction Division, U.S. Army at Rock Island Arsenal. N. pl.: n. pub., 1922. Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office. Describes planning and construction of building.

War's Greatest Workshop Rock Island Arsenal. N. pl.: Arsenal Publishing Co. of the Tri-Cities, 1922. Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office. Describes planning and construction of the building.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was part of a program initiated through a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Army. Stanley J. Fried, Chief, Real Estate Branch of Heaquarters DARCOM, and Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, were program directors. Sally Kress Tompkins of HABS/HAER was program manager, and Robie S. Lange of HABS/HAER was project manager. Building Technology Incorporated, Silver Spring, Maryland, under the direction of William A. Brenner, acted as primary contractor, and MacDonald and Mack Partnership, Minneapolis, was a major subcontractor. The project included a survey of historic properties at Rock Island Arsenal, as well as preparation of an historic properties report and HABS/HAER documentation for 38 buildings. The survey, report, and documentation were completed by Jeffrey A. Hess, historian, Minneapolis; Barbara E. Hightower, historian, Minneapolis;

David Arbogast, architectural historian, Iowa City, Iowa; and Robert C. Mack,architect, Minneapolis. The photographs were taken by Robert A. Ryan, J Ceronie, and Bruce A. Harms of Dennett, Muessig, Ryan, and Associates, Ltd., Iowa City, Iowa. Drawings were produced by John Palmer Low, Minneapolis.